



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 JUNE 1965

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1. South Vietnam

The Saigon generals are falling behind schedule in setting up a new government. They appear to be having trouble getting qualified civilians to serve.

In addition, General Ky, who has been charged with the task, has misgivings about leaving the air force for the uncertain future of a civilian official.

There are signs of uneasiness in both Buddhist and Catholic circles over the nature of the emerging regime. The Buddhists in Hue threaten to demonstrate if General Thieu emerges as Chief of State.

The major five-day battle at Dong Xoai this week probably sets the pattern for the expected Viet Cong summer campaign. A brief description of the general military picture as it seems to be taking form is at Annex.

2. Communist China

For the past several months the Chinese Communist leadership has been trying [redacted] to make a convincing impression of their determination to intervene in Vietnam, under certain conditions.

The determining factor, as the Chinese have presented it, would be the use of US military power against mainland China or the establishment of US power on China's frontiers.

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3. North Vietnam

[redacted] US Navy pilots may have shot down a third MIG fighter in this morning's action south of Hanoi.

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4. Dominican Republic

No reports of further fighting in Santo Domingo today have come in. Elsewhere, the situation is quiet.

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No significant developments on the political scene were reported today.

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5. Cuba

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6. USSR

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7. Indonesia

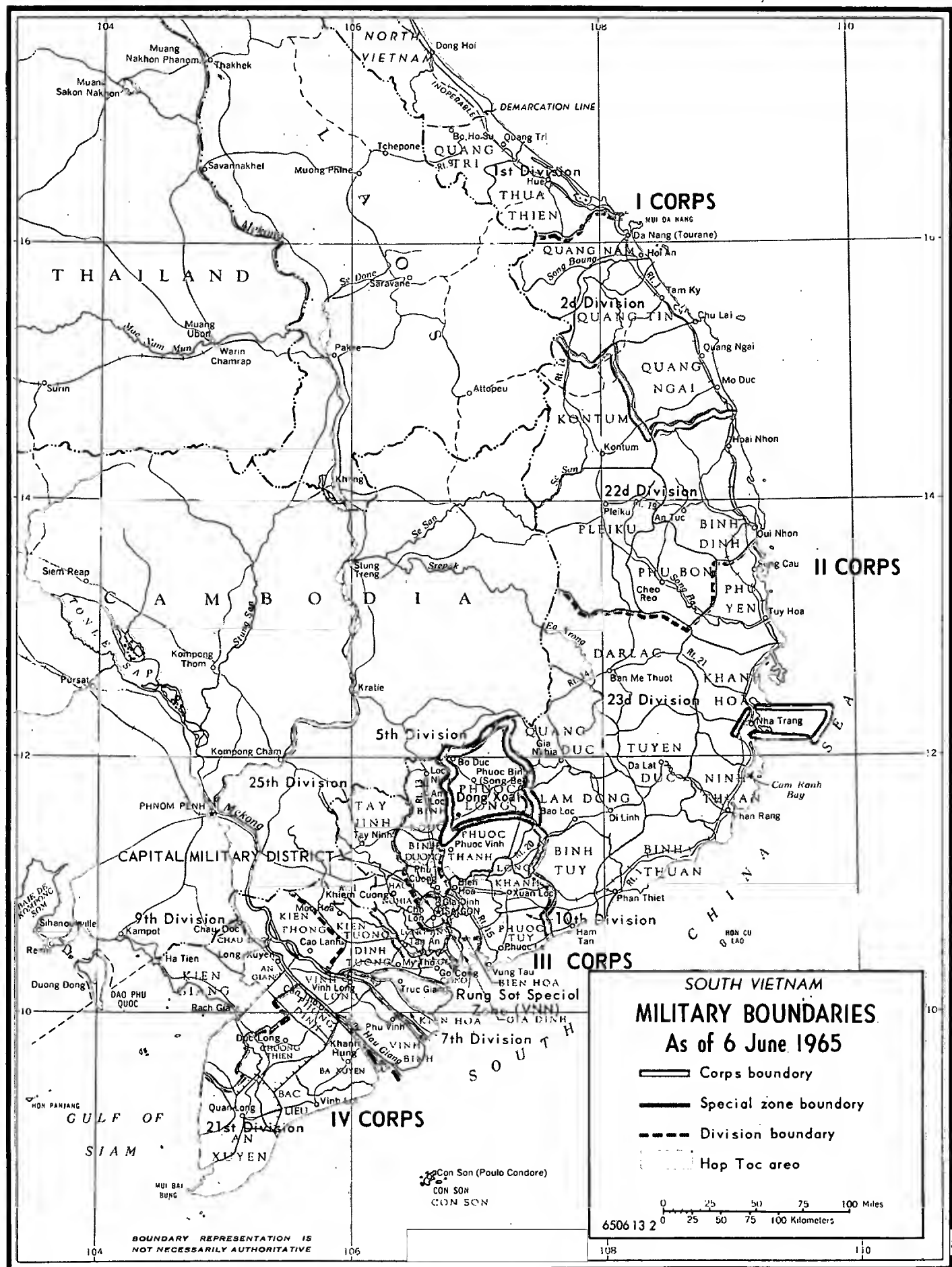
The press and radio in Indonesia are loudly condemning fictitious US and British naval exercises in the Indonesian waters.

Such charges, like last week's stories about a British shelling of an Indonesian island near Singapore, are part of an Indonesian attempt to portray themselves as under immediate threat of "imperialist" attack. They help keep the home front quiet while Sukarno attends the Afro-Asian conference.

8. South Arabia

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ANNEX

The Viet Cong's Emerging Summer Campaign

Since 14 June, friendly clearing and evacuation operations have made no further contact with the elements of two Viet Cong regiments that attacked Dong Xoai. [REDACTED]

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In future engagements this summer the Viet Cong is likely to attempt to repeat the pattern of the Dong Xoai operation. Its chief characteristics were:

- The Viet Cong committed a heavily armed attacking force, large enough to elicit a major response.
- The Viet Cong deployed numerous ambushing forces at all likely helicopter landing zones and around all likely avenues of approach.
- The ambushing forces [REDACTED] were able to inflict heavy casualties on government relief forces which were once again committed piecemeal by helicopter.

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The objective of the operation appeared to be to undermine the will to fight of the government forces by inflicting heavy losses. Another Viet Cong objective discernible in recent operations is to isolate the major cities--especially Saigon--by inflicting permanent damage on communications. This is a new development. Until a few weeks ago, the Viet Cong seemed content to inflict largely temporary or readily repairable damage.

Over the last few weeks Viet Cong attacks on roads and bridges have cut and made unusable long stretches of main highways, both those along the coast and those leading into the interior. The often-cut coastal railroad is now operable only from Nha Trang southward for a distance of about 35 miles. (Map)

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